

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-24. (CANCELLED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 28, wherein said input shaft includes a lubricant passage for communicating lubricant into said axle housing.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said lubricant passage comprise a first passage extending axially through said input shaft and a plurality of second passages in communication with said first passage that communicate lubricant outside said input shaft.

27. (CANCELLED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The assembly as recited in claim 27,~~ An axle assembly comprising:

an axle housing including an opening for an input shaft;  
a pump housing attached to the axle housing over said opening;  
a pump mounted within said pump housing and driven by said input shaft; and  
a bearing member supported within said pump housing separate from said axle housing for supporting rotation of said input shaft, wherein the pump housing includes an inlet in communication with a sump within said axle housing, a cavity defining a supply passage within said pump housing from said inlet to said pump, and ~~wherein said pump housing includes an elongated section including said inlet and said cavity.~~

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 28, wherein said input shaft drives a pinion shaft supported for rotation within said axle assembly.